to enable the plant to operate at its rated capacity of 1.8 million tonnes per annum of ingot steel against the present production of around 1.1 million tonnes per annum. However, SAIL has now reconsidered this scheme and have concluded that in order to exploit the maximum potential of the plant, it should be modernised and expanded to a capacity of 2.3 million tonnes per annum.

Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO)

No funds have been allocated in the VII plan for the modernisation of IISCO. Efforts are, however, being made to explore the possibilities of obtaining technical and financial assistance from Japan for this scheme. As a first step, the Japanese Government is getting a feasibility report prepared for modernisation of IISCO. This report is expected by March, 1987. Only after examining this report and arranging finances, will it be possible to indicate further details.

Irrigation projects to be kept outside Government's purview

539. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to exclude from the purview those irrigation projects that were started before enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of Indo-Bangla team to Nepal

540. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indo-Bangladesh team has visited Nepal to discuss water resources; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Committee of Experts visited Kathmandu from 29th to 31st October, 1986 and sought from HMG Nepal, the date and information needed for the Joint Committee of Experts study on the possibility of augmenting the flows of the Ganga at Farakka through storages in Nepal. HMG Nepal stated that they would examine the JCE's list of required data in depth and give their response later. They assured the JCE of their co-operation on the basis of mutual benefit.

Amendment of Delhi Rent Control Act

541. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce have urged Government during the second week of September, 1986 to amend the Delhi Rent Control Act ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action have been taken by Government in this regard in the light of the above request ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN